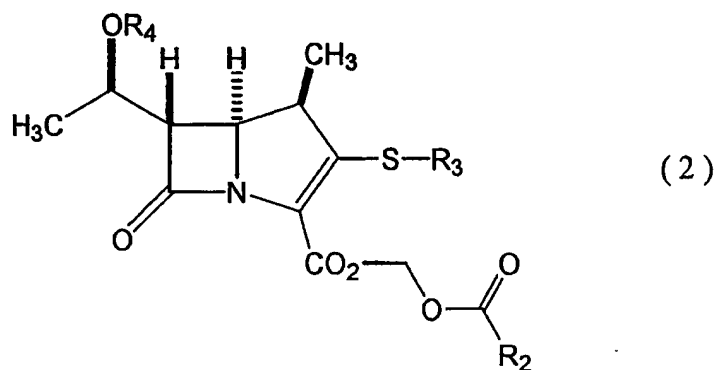


In the Claims:

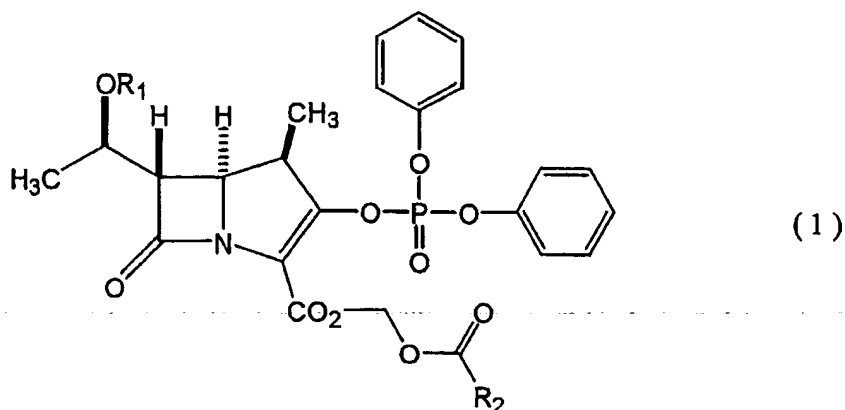
Please amend Claim 1 as follows. The changes are shown with ~~strikethroughs~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by ~~general~~-formula (2):



wherein R₂ denotes an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms; R₃ denotes an organic group; and R₄ denotes a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group,

characterized by reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~-formula (1):



wherein R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group; R_2 denotes the same as described above,

with a thiol compound represented by formula (3):



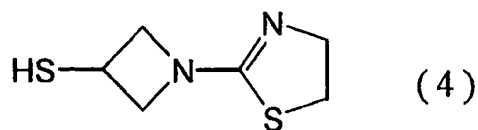
wherein R_3 denotes the same as described above,

in the presence of a base and optionally eliminating the protective group

R_1 .

2. (Original) The production process according to claim 1, wherein R_2 is a tert-butyl group.

3. (Original) The production process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R_3 is the thiol residue of a thiol compound represented by formula (4):



4. (Original) The production process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R_3 is the thiol residue of a thiol compound represented by formula (5):

